GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4926
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
CONSUMER WELFARE FUND
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives for creating Consumer Welfare Fund alongwith the success achieved therein;

(b) the amount sanctioned and utilized from the said fund during each of the last three years;

(c) the manner in which the said funds were utilised during the said period;

(d) whether complaints have been received regarding misuse of funds allocated to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for Consumer Awareness;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the number and nature of complaints received alongwith the number of NGOs engaged in Consumer Awareness and the funds allocated to them; and

(f) the remedial steps taken to check misuse of funds by NGOs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a): The overall objectives of the Consumer Welfare Fund is to provide financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of consumers and strengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country.Various projects have been sanctioned from the Consumer Welfare Fund to enhance the consumer awareness across the country.

(b): The Budget estimate and amount released during last 3 years is as under:

Year	Budget estimate	Amount Released
2005-06	Rs.31.50Crores	Rs.8,51,14,000
2006-07	Rs.17.35Crores	Rs.6,71,56,354
2007-08	Rs.20.60 Crores	Rs.8,72,53,072

(c): During the last 3 years funds were utilized for projects in the following areas:

1. Training programmes on consumer protection.

2. Comparative testing of products.

3. Setting up/strengthening alternate consumer grievances redressal system.

4. Setting up of Consumer Clubs in schools/colleges.

5. Setting up of State Consumer Welfare Funds.

6. Setting up of Chairs/Centers of excellence.

7. Consumer awareness programmes in rural areas.

8. Up grading testing laboratories.

9. District Consumer Information Centers.

(d)&(e): A complaint was received against Jajpur Harijan Sewa Samity, District Jajpur,Orissa.The State Government has been asked to take necessary action in the matter.

(f): A Monitoring Committee set up in the Department periodically reviews the progress of activities and the expenditure incurred in addition to the annual internal audit inspection.